

RETHINKING EDUCATION: GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES OVERHAUL OF K-12 LANDSCAPE

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The K-12 program in the Philippines was meant to address the issues of the education system in the country and produce job-ready senior high school graduates. However, as per Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte, the program failed to deliver on its promises. The implementation of basic education in the country is being reconsidered by the Marcos administration. In line with this, another major revamp is being considered as a potential solution to the challenges faced.

During a recent engagement in Oriental Mindoro, Duterte revealed that there is a direction to study the removal of Grades 11 and 12 in the K-12 program. These grades may become voluntary or only for those who wish to pursue higher education. Former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has also drafted a proposed law regarding the direction of K-12 program since it was not able to address the problems regarding quality education.

Arroyo has introduced a bill called "K+10+2." The bill proposes that Grades 11 and 12, which are currently known as senior high school. It should only be mandatory for students who plan to pursue a college degree. These grades will be referred to as "post-secondary, pre-university education."

Arroyo's bill, which is still unnumbered, includes an explanatory note stating that the K-12 program's inability to deliver on its promises puts additional pressure on parents and students who have to endure two more years of basic education. It suggests that in a country like the Philippines, with a poverty incidence of 18 percent, there should be an

option for the young to graduate from basic education soonest, after four years of high school.

Arroyo presented her suggestion in the House committee's meeting last Wednesday. The proposal pertained to the improvement of technical-vocational-livelihood education (TVL) in senior high school and was discussed in both the committees on basic education and culture and higher and technical education.

The bill was postponed by the previous president as it would affect the whole K-12 system, including TVL, which is one of the senior high school tracks.

The K-12 system, which was established by Republic Act 10533, would be modified by the proposal through the amendment of several provisions. Michael Poa, the spokesperson of the Department of Education (DepEd), has stated that they are willing to participate in the discussions in Congress.

References:

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